

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for connecting a transmission line that terminates with a connector to a device, the transmission line having a connector at one end of the transmission line, the apparatus being part of, or being connected to the device, the apparatus comprising:

(a) a receptacle for receiving the connector; and
(b) a sensor associated with the receptacle for detecting the presence of the connector within the receptacle;

(c) a signal detector for detecting signals communicated through the transmission line; and

(d) a controller that determines whether signals communicated through the transmission line have been detected by the signal detector, wherein, when the controller determines that signals communicated through the transmission line have not been detected by the signal detector, the controller issues an inquiry as to whether the presence of the connector has been detected by the sensor to be within the receptacle.

2. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for connecting a transmission line that terminates with a connector to a device, the transmission line having a connector at one end of the transmission line, the apparatus being part of, or being connected to the device, the apparatus comprising:

(a) a receptacle for receiving the connector; and
(b) a sensor associated with the receptacle for detecting the presence of the connector within the receptacle;

(c) a signal detector for detecting signals communicated through the transmission line; and

(d) a controller that determines whether signals communicated through the transmission line have been detected by the signal detector, wherein, when the controller determines that signals communicated through the transmission line have not been detected by the signal detector, the controller issues an inquiry as to whether the presence of the connector has been detected by the sensor to be within the receptacle,
wherein the sensor comprises a pressure switch within the receptacle.

3. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for connecting a transmission line that terminates with a connector to a device, the transmission line having a connector at one end of the transmission line, the apparatus being part of, or being connected to the device, the apparatus comprising:

(a) a receptacle for receiving the connector; and

(b) a sensor associated with the receptacle for detecting the presence of the connector within the receptacle,

wherein the sensor comprises an optical sensor within the receptacle,

the optical sensor comprising:

a light emitting device;

a light sensor; and

a mirror,

wherein:

when the connector is not present within the receptacle, the light sensor receives the light emitted from the light emitting device that has been reflected by the mirror; and

when the connector is present with in the receptacle, the connector blocks light passages between the light emitting device and the mirror, and between the mirror and the light sensor.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 4claim 1, wherein the signal detector is for detecting a telephone dial tone.

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 4claim 1, wherein, in response to a signal from the sensor indicating that the connector is present within the receptacle, the controller determines a determination is made, with the signal detector, whether signals are being communicated through the transmission line.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the controller controls the sensor is utilized to determine whether the connector is present within the receptacle when the device is activated.

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 4claim 1, wherein the controller controls the signal detector is utilized to detect signals through the transmission line at times other than on device activation.

10. (Currently Amended) A printing machine capable of communicating with a network through a transmission line, the transmission line having a connector at one end of the transmission line that terminates with a connector, the printing machine comprising:

(a) a receptacle for receiving the connector;

(b) a sensor associated with the receptacle for detecting the presence of the connector within the receptacle; and

(c) a sensor circuit, communicating with the detecting sensor, for transmitting a signal indicating whether the detecting sensor detects the presence of the connector;

(d) a signal detector for detecting signals communicated through the transmission line; and

(e) a controller that determines whether signals communicated through the transmission line have been detected by the signal detector, wherein, when the controller determines that signals communicated through the transmission line have not been detected by the signal detector, the controller issues an inquiry as to whether the presence of the connector has been detected by the sensor to be within the receptacle.

11-20. (Canceled)

21. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a control panel that displays the inquiry issued from the controller.

22. (New) The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising a control panel that displays the inquiry issued from the controller.

23. (New) The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising a control panel that displays the inquiry issued from the controller.

24. (New) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the control panel displays a message indicating that no signals communicated through the transmission line have been detected, and suggesting inspection of physical connection of the connector within the receptacle.

25. (New) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the control panel displays a message indicating that no signals communicated through the transmission line have been detected, and suggesting inspection of physical connection of the connector within the receptacle.

26. (New) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the control panel displays a message indicating that no signals communicated through the transmission line have been detected, and suggesting inspection of physical connection of the connector within the receptacle.